

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

ENGLISH NATION.

Tuesday, April 8. 1706.

When I began this *Review* of the State of the Nation, I did not expect to go on without Opposition; I knew what I had to say, would stir the Humours of a Party, and that I must speak some cutting Truths, which the People concern'd in could not bear.

But of all the Men in the Town, I did not expect to be Attack'd by Dr. Brown, for sundry Reasons.

1. I thought he had been fully taken up in Bullying the Government, and the Secretary of State, Lampooning the Nobility, Affronting my Lord-keeper; first denying himself to be Author of a Paper, and then undertaking to Explain it; Writing *Ironies*, and then Expounding them *Ironically*, and the like.

2. I thought it had been below him, to have concern'd himself with so mean and

Contemptible a thing as the *Review*; much below him, who had the Honour to Write Letters, with plain Contradictions in them to the Ministers of State.

3. Or he might perhaps be Employ'd more Significantly, in Translating *Horace*, or Correcting the false Grammar in his Specimens, and the like; but finding to my Surprise, that none of all these more weighty Employments could divert the Doctor, but that he will Play at this *small Game* rather than stand out; I shall to gratifie him, and help make his Paper Sell, which some wicked People say is the chief Design; Examine it a little, and with all decency imaginable, defend my self from this first Paper only; assuring the Doctor, if he pleases to excuse me this time, I shall never after give him any Trouble of this sort; con-

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cluding from this Specimen of his, what Worthy Caviling he designs, in which he will meet with no manner of disturbance from me.

The first Objection he makes of any Note, is, That the *Dutch* Acknowledging the King of *Spain*, was to amuse the *French*, and to recover their Troops out of *Flanders*; but I might be right for all that, since I must add, it was also to amuse the *French*, and prevent their falling into *Holland*, their Troops continuing to lye at their Gates, as by the Vehement Expostulations of their Letter hither appears, when the 10000 Men were not sent.

As to delays of sending them, I wonder at his Stock, to say they were not delay'd; Why did the *Dutch* press so earnestly for them, why the King made two Speeches, and send two Messages to the Houses about it, and who was backward in it? Was the King against it? How Ridiculous was such a Suggestion — 'Tis plain, His Majesty was uneasy at it, which I have some more than common Reason to know; and 'tis plain, that this backwardness here in that Aid, and in Proceeding to the present Confederacy, reduc'd the *Dutch* to just Apprehensions, and all concurr'd to that *wrong step*, for such I must have leave to call it, of *Owning the King of Spain*.

As for his Reflection on losing the Elector of *Bavaria*, the Doctor says, just enough, to let us see he knows nothing of the matter, and his Observation is much about as likely, as that the Author of the *Review*, should reflect on the Memory of King *William*; these Insinuations are too weak to hold; and I really begin to pity the Doctor, and am afraid, let me do what I can, to help to make his Paper publick, it will never Sell; which I am very sorry for, and would therefore advise him to say something more to the purpose, than to Charge me with Abusing King *William*, for this is so absurd it will never do.

But to go on; this Gentleman designs to make himself famous, at the Expence of my Mistake, but will eke them out with his own. To this purpose he tells me the following strange things.

In one of my *Reviews*, somebody ejected *Proposals for relieving the Camisars, upon a Party-Prentence* — Therefore says he, these things follow as he supposes.

1. Therefore I must Write a certain Scandalous Paper which he mentions, and which I never before heard of, Importing that a Counsel was held that Night, about assisting the *Camisars*, but that a certain Noble Peer had Oppos'd it.

This is excellent Proof, to Charge a Fact with; but his Party are uled to Accuse upon Supposition.

2. He supposes that by *Party*, I mean the *Church*, and Charges me with Insolence upon the Supposition — Excellent Logic, that is, to serve a Cause, which, good Sir, why may I not as well mean, a *French Party*, or a *Jacobite-Party*? — Was it not more likely, that these should raise *Prentences* against Relieving the *Camisars*, than the *Church*?

Now to justify this Noble Peer, in refusing to Assist the *Camisars*, on pretence of its being encouraging *Subjects to Rebel* against their Prince; never was my Lord *N...* so Vindicated, and never was the Doctor more Confounded, except in his Buffooning Letter, to Mr. Secretary *H—y*; where in one age, he says, he had told the under-Secretary, he could bring the Author of the Paper he was Charg'd with, and in almost the next Page says, he had never heard who was the Author in all his Life; so to justify his Noble Peer, refusing to Assist Rebels in time of open War, he brings an Instance of the Ill Success of Assisting Rebels in time of Profound Peace; this is very Unhappy.

Most Leagues between Princes expressly stipulate, that Traitors and Rebels on either side, shall not be Assisted or Encourag'd, and for a Prince in the Profoundest Peace, to Assist the Rebels of his Confederate, is Dishonourable and Unjust; and this was the Case of King *Charles I.* which he brings in, and yet that King, rather Re-ind than Assisted them too; when he and the *Dutch* lent their Ships of War to the *French*, by whose help they beat the *Rockellers Fleet*, and completed the Destruction of the Protestant Power in *France*; and 'twill be difficult to de-

determine, whether God's Judgment came afterwards, as this Gentleman describes it, for his Assisting, or his Betraying the Rebels, which I recommend to the Doctor to Examine.

But what's all this to an open War, when Leagues and Treaties are declar'd Void; when War is Proclaim'd, and to Annoy the Enemy by all ways possible, is concluded to be just——Now to scruple aiding the Camisars under these Circumstances; I appeal to all the World, if it is not a *meer Party-Pretext*, by which I mean, a *French-Party-Pretext*, a *Jacobite-Party-Pretext*, or a *High-Flying-Party-Pretext*, for they are all Synonymous, let them call it which they please, and let his Noble Peer come off of it if he can——But to say this Party must be the Church, and that it is a Church Pretence, I know no Pretences the Church makes; I know some People that make a great many Pretences to be thought of the Church, and they are *meer Pretences* indeed, of these all this may be True——but the Church of England makes no Pretences, she needs them not, nor does the Review ever suggest it.

These are the Men that Assault the Government, the Queen, the Ministry, and the General Peace, and then Cry out, *the Church, the Church!* and I believe it would be very easy, to prove this Gentleman one of them, that has done all these, and now says, he Writes in Defence of the Church.—

The Writing Invektive Papers, will never determine this Dispute; if these Gentlemen are for Peace, let them leave the Government to the just Measure, which they know best how to pursue. I BEGAN, I shew'd them the way; this Paper engag'd in Matters of Trade, had laid down talking of them, and *Mr. Observer* as I am told, has often made the offer, of saying not a Word more, on Condition they would be Quiet, and leave Railing.

But in near four Months Truce, that has thus been offer'd, have they abated one Inch of their Rancour? Was their ever more or more Virulent Pamphlets, than this Party have vented against the Government, against the Ministers of State, and against

the Publick Peace, since the Review meddled with them?

These Gentlemen would therefore do well to tell us, when they will have done, and how far we are bound to be Silent, and see them rage at their Superiours, bite their own Flesh for Anger at the Toleration, and that the Dissenters are protected from them by the Law.

How long must we see the Reproaches of our Establishment, and the Insults of the Laws, and be bound to Silence, and to say nothing for Peace-sake? how long must their false Prophets, and Dreamers of Dreams Abuse us, and we be oblig'd to hold our Peace?

How long must such people tell us, as the Doctor in his new Dialogue, we have Ruined the Nation, and made the Church Odious; when Her Majesty has told us, nothing but our own Divisions can injure the first, and the Parliament has Voted the other rescued from Danger, by the late Glorious King WILLIAM, and preserved safe and flourishing by the present QUEEN.

What Forgeries, what Abominable Shifts do they run into, to support this Ridiculous Cause? What Inventions to preserve the Foundations of Raillery; if they would prove as well as Suggest, we might deal with them on the square, but when Men will stoop to Lye, asking the Readers pardon for the Expression, who can Argue with them?

Their Champion Dyer, gave an admirable proof of this lately at Exeter, a Writer that scruples nothing, that will Assert anything, that will forge upon less than hear-say, and whose Stories are hardly worth Replying to; yet as a Specimen I shall in the next give you a Fragment.

For really that contemptible Wretch is not worth notice, and I instance these things here only as a farther demonstration with what treatment these people use Mankind, and why I think my self oblig'd again to return to the stating our publick Affairs, in which, if Dr. Brown, or any Man else will fairly detect me, of any willful designing Mistake, I'll freely recant it; if I do any Man Injury, I'll make all possible Reparation, and desire but one thing of the